

Name of Project: Name of Project Director: Address:

Telephone Number: Fax Number: Email Address: Number of students in FY13: Pershing County Middle School Richard Tree, Principal P. O. Box 1020 Lovelock, NV 89420 (775) 273-1200 (775) 273-3191 rtree@pershing.k12.nv.us

Pershing County Middle School GEAR UP Abstract 2012-2013

Pershing County High School is in a rural school district where post-secondary expectations have traditionally been low, reflecting achievement levels in Nevada statewide. Currently, the district wide student population consists of 6.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.4% Asian/Pacific Islander, 31.6% Hispanic, 0.6% Black, 52.6% White and 7.5% Multi-race, with the individual schools reflecting the approximate breakdown. In the middle school, where we will begin with the 7th grad cohort, there is a FRL rate of 70.1%. Additionally, this cohort of 63 has 16% of students on an IEP, while the MS overall is over 10%.

Pershing County's vision is to raise the educational goals and expectations of our students and their parents, thereby significantly increasing the numbers of students who are prepared for post-secondary education and success. We will accomplish this through parent and student financial education and preparation, increased knowledge of higher education options and the necessity for academic rigor, enrichment programs aligned with the School Improvement Plan, and institutional change.

We will continue our enrollment of 7th graders into Pre-Algebra, increasing the numbers each year in preparation for Algebra in 8th grade. Additionally, students will have Math Enrichment, increasing content knowledge, addressing gaps, and accelerating skill levels. This aligns with the School Improvement goal of raising Math CRT scores generally and for our special populations. We will also bring in a Writing Enrichment component through an outside consultant, affording the Language Arts teachers the opportunity to work with smaller groups and increasing the chances of meeting our SIP goal of raising ELA CRT scores.

As this is our second cohort, we are aware of the importance of early introduction to financial awareness and possibilities for parents and students. We will once again partner with Wells Fargo Bank to provide workshops in the fall. This demystification of the process from the beginning greatly enhances the chances that students will attend post-secondary schooling. We will have at least 3 parent/family nights: an Introductory, the Financial workshops, and an Academic Progress night in the spring. The Student-Parent Involvement Facilitator (SPIF) and counselor will also work closely with the NSHE ambassadors, both during their visits, and to create and plan career activities. For the 2012-2013 academic year, we will use Career CruisingTM to create ILP's with counselor, as well as begin to use the Career CruisingTM tools to begin looking at areas of interest. To this end, the principal will begin mentoring activities by bringing in monthly speakers from different fields. Homework support will be available after school and during a tutorial period in the class schedule, and an additional tutor will be hired for afterschool tutoring in subject areas. Credit Recovery as well as Summer School remediation and enrichment will also be offered.

The full-time RPDP Regional Trainer will work with the principal and counselor to implement ongoing professional development activities to support School Improvement as well as to reinforce raised expectations and college-going culture. Additionally, staff is using Common Core standards, and secondary Science and Math teachers will be sent to STEM training. PCMS teachers will use MAP's results for instructional decision-making, supporting the goals of both secondary School Improvement Teams to increase math and language arts scores. Staff will also receive Career and College Readiness training.

Lastly, in addition to our parent information nights, we will take a campus field trip in the spring (and as with the first cohort, parents are welcome to accompany their students). The SPIF will reach out to parents through phone calls for meeting reminders and invitations to attend field trips and our College Fair in November, as well as mailings and bilingual information for our families. At our introductory meeting, we will explain how parents will have ongoing access to their student's progress and interests through Powerschool and Career CruisingTM, and continue to provide handouts in these areas at all parent meetings.